for the autonomous adjustment of prices by the oil companies. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006.

The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided "in principle' that subsidized PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only. The modalities to implement this decision have not been worked out yet.

(c) to (e) The Government of India allocates Kerosene to the States/ Union Territories (UTs) under the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different State/UTs, the Government commissioned a study in December, 2004 on the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER submitted its report in October, 2005. In its report, NCAER has noted that PDS kerosene is supplied for fishing in some coastal States and has *inter alia* recommended that the kerosene requirement for fishing may be supplied at non-PDS price. The recommendations of the NCAER have been brought to the notice of State Governments.

In addition to the PDS Kerosene, oil companies sell fre^n£aJe"Kerosene at market price as per the requirement. The fishermen may like to procure their requirements at market price.

Share of ONGC in gas from Sakhalin field

†2681. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of oil and gas has already begun long time back in Sakhalin-I region in Russia in which ONGC Videsh has 20 per cent stake;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ONGC Videsh is trying to bring the natural gas of its share to India from Sakhalin-I region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no plan has been formulated as yet to extract the estimated gas reserve of about 485 cubic metres in Sakhalin-I region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent India's self dependence will increase by getting the gas of its share from Sakhalin-I?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) With the installation of Interim Production Facility in Sakhalin-I project, the development of which is in progress, production of crude oil and natural gas has started on a limited scale in the field from October, 2005, for sale to domestic buyers. Full production is expected to commence in early 2007.

(b) OVL has expressed desire to buy the entire Sakhalin-I gas production and import the same in the form of LNG to India.

(c) and (d) The gas production potential of Sakhalin-I is 8 billion cubic metres (BCM) per annum. Exploitation of gas reserve is planned in Phase-2 development, which is likely to commence in 2013 The operator has initiated negotiation with the prospective buyers.

The increase in self dependence would be in proportion to the quantity of gas that would be brought to India by OVL.

LPG agencies in Uttar Pradesh

2682. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies in Uttar Pradesh as on 30th June, 2006, district-wise;

(b) the longest distance that is to be covered by consumers to get the LPG refill at the agency;

(c) the action being taken by Central Government to set up agency at an average of 5 kms. distance from the consumer residence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 30.6.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 1156 LPG distributorships in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Through these distributorships, OMCs are serving about 92.06 lakh LPG customers. As on 30.6.2006, the district-wise details of LPG distributorships in Uttar Pradesh are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) LPG distributors are required to make home delivery of LPG cylinders to the genuine customers residing within their authorized area of operation.